

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☒

Property Name: Louis A. Scholz House Inventory Number: HO-1114  
Address: 850 Sykesville Road (MD 32) Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no  
City: Sykesville Zip Code: 21784 County: Howard  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Sykesville  
Property Owner: Louis A. Scholz LLC Tax Account ID Number: 03-295389  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0004-0087 Tax Map Number: 0009  
Project: MD 32 from S. of Day Road to N. of W. Friendship Road Wide Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration  
Agency Prepared By: Skelly and Loy, Inc.  
Preparer's Name: Laura C. Ricketts Date Prepared: 10/25/2012  
Documentation is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files  
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: ☐ yes Listed: ☐ yes  
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Description:

The house with detached garage and outbuildings at 850 Sykesville Road/Route 32 sits on a sloping 4.4-acre lot wooded lot on the west side of the highway (Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation 2012). The property lies just over a mile south of the historic town of Sykesville and the South Branch Patapsco River. Its setting is rural with a mixture of nineteenth and early twentieth century farms, post-World War II houses, and more recently constructed homes in the vicinity.

The eclectic house at 850 Sykesville Road appears to have been built in several campaigns beginning ca. 1956 (Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation 2012). It began as a one-story concrete block building with a rectangular plan that was expanded with four first floor wings and a second story addition from about the late 1960s to the 1980s (Kelly 2011). The first floor of the house is a concrete block structure that is partially built into a hillside on the east elevation. From a rectangular plan core, the first floor extends in wings to the north (partial width), east, south, and west (partial width). The north side features an enclosed frame front porch with sliding doors and a rustic stacked stone half wall. The east concrete block wing is built into the hillside under a shallow slope shed roof that projects over broad eaves and doubles as a porch for the second floor east side entrance. The south wing has a large solarium with a shed roof, and the west wing extends into a partially-cantilevered, semi-circular bay with curving ribbon windows and a rounded hipped roof. The second floor is a frame structure with a rectangular plan

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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MHT Comments:

John J. Lawrence  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]  
Reviewer, National Register Program

12/18/12

Date

12/18/12

Date

that appears to be a side gable mobile home that was added to the original concrete block structure. The second floor is covered with board-and-batten siding with aluminum paired double hung sash windows and Chicago School style windows (double hung sash windows flanking a central fixed pane) with shutters. The concrete block walls on the first floor of the east, south, and west elevations are painted with a random distribution of large multi-color circles. A narrow pedestrian bridge provides access from the hillside at the east to the porch/roof and second floor entrance on the east side of the house

The winding gravel driveway which leads to the house passes a faded "Law Office Open" sign and three small frame sheds on the east side. The one-bay by one-bay sheds are built on concrete block pier foundations with vertical groove wood panel siding (2) or standing seam metal siding (1) and asphalt shingle front gable roofs. The driveway also passes by a yellow and red brick hearth with chimney and a dilapidated shed on the west side. The flat roof frame shed incorporates wood shutters and pressed board as sheathing materials. The driveway splits into two parallel branches in front of the house. One branch leads to the front door on the higher ground to the east and the other leads to a detached double garage, which is built at a lower level and partially embedded in the hillside, to the west. The front gable frame garage has a monitor vent at the ridgeline. It has wood panel walls and a standing seam metal roof.

The property at 850 Sykesville Road has undergone multiple significant alterations since the late 1960s. These changes (the addition of four first-story wings and a second story) impact the design, materials, and workmanship of the original historic-era structure. The house does not retain integrity.

#### History:

The property was owned from 1954 by a local patent attorney named Louis August Scholz, who lived in the house from its initial construction ca. 1956 until his death at age 92 in April 2011 (Kelly 2011). The Baltimore Sun obituary for Mr. Scholz recounts that he was a physicist, an inventor, and a patent attorney (Kelly 2011; the information that follows is derived from this source). As a captain in the Army Air Corps during World War II, he helped modify aerial cameras used for nighttime surveillance by American bombers in search of German missile targets. He also worked on the development of the atomic bomb with the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos, New Mexico in a unit that concentrated on strobe and night photography. In the late 1940s, he worked with medical professionals at Johns Hopkins and invented heart vessel clamps and an early mechanical heart valve. Mr. Scholz then studied law at the University of Baltimore and began his own practice as a patent attorney in Sykesville. He held several medical patents and one for "a whipped cream that would not sour" which he sold to the owners of Cool Whip dessert topping.

"In 1954, he bought a tract of land in Sykesville and built a place for his workshop. He soon sectioned off a place for his family. A 1960 Evening Sun article described it as a 'one-story box building with a flat roof and large garage doors.' He said that when his wife moved in, 'she took one look at the place and said it needed something, that it had no personality.' They gave it a look by having large multicolored polka dots painted on it" (Kelly 2011).

#### National Register of Historic Places Evaluation:

The majority of Mr. Scholz's accomplishments including his military service, participation in the Manhattan Project, and early inventions and patents predate his ownership of 850 Sykesville Road. The obituary suggests that he maintained a law office and a workshop at his home, and he did continue to work on his inventions there, including "unconventional prosthetics for amputees" (Kelly 2011). While the house and its eccentricities do reflect the unconventional interests of its owner, a self-described "oddball", no direct links between the property and any of his significant inventions have been uncovered (Kelly 2011). Research into the life, inventions, and patent law practice of Louis A. Scholz has not revealed any significant accomplishments that can be tied to his occupation of the house from ca. 1956 to 2011. He was the patent attorney during that time for at least four U.S. Patents (Justia Patents 1980, 1982, 2000; Free Patents Online 1971) and at least three abandoned patent petitions (Justia Trademarks 2012a,

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

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MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

2012b, 2012c), but there is no auxiliary evidence that these patents (or his role in obtaining them) meet the standard for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) significance under Criterion A or B. The house and outbuildings at 850 Sykesville Road/Route 32, which have lost their integrity due to substantial changes undertaken within the last 50 years, are not eligible for NRHP listing. The resource was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this assessment.

## References

## Carroll County Times

2011 "Louis A. Scholz: Obituary." Carroll County Times. Website at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/carrollcountytimes/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=150445253#fbLoggedOut>. Accessed October 25, 2012.

## Free Patents Online

1971 U.S. Patent Number 3,553,052: Etching control device, January 5, 1971. Website at <http://www.freepatentsonline.com/3553052.pdf>. Accessed October 25, 2012.

## Justia Patents

1980 U.S. Patent Number 4,202,512: Level layer winding method and apparatus, May 13, 1980. Website at <http://patents.justia.com/1980/04202512.html>. Accessed October 25, 2012.

1982 U.S. Patent Number 4,331,160: Method for detecting and recording physiological changes accompanying emotional stresses, May 25, 1982. Website at <http://patents.justia.com/1982/04331160.html>. Accessed October 25, 2012.

2000 U.S. Patent Number 6,146,587: Sanitizing dry spray material and applicator, November 14, 2000. Website at <http://patents.justia.com/2000/06146587.html>. Accessed October 25, 2012.

## Justia Trademarks

2012a Aunt Mattie's Miracle Crème external emollient salve abandoned patent application. Website at <http://trademarks.justia.com/735/66/aunt-mattie-s-miracle-creme-73566340.html>. Accessed October 25, 2012.

2012b Concrete slabs with embedded steel trusses that are used to form finished floor and roof systems abandoned patent application. Website at <http://trademarks.justia.com/734/66/conodec-73466845.html>. Accessed October 25, 2012.

2012c Sport Tubes, tubular containers or enclosing devices for athletic equipment including but not limited to golf clubs, skis, ski poles, and other athletic equipment and clothing abandoned patent application. Website at <http://trademarks.justia.com/734/39/sport-tubes-73439093.html>. Accessed October 25, 2012.

## Kelly, J.

2011 "Louis August Scholz, inventor and attorney, dies." The Baltimore Sun. Website at [http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2011-04-28/iphone/bs-md-ob-iphone-louis-scholz-20110428\\_1\\_patent-inventor-and-attorney-sykesville](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2011-04-28/iphone/bs-md-ob-iphone-louis-scholz-20110428_1_patent-inventor-and-attorney-sykesville). Accessed October 15, 2012.

## Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria:    A    B    C    D    Considerations:    A    B    C    D    E    F    G

## MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

HO-1114

Louis A. Scholz House

Page 4

2012 Assessment Record for Tax Account District 03, Account 295389. Website at [http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp\\_rewrite/details.aspx?County=14&SearchType=STREET&AccountNumber=03%20295389](http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/details.aspx?County=14&SearchType=STREET&AccountNumber=03%20295389). Accessed October 15, 2012.

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

2011 Sykesville, Maryland, topographic map, 7.5 minute quadrangle. United States Geological Survey, Denver.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

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MHT Comments:

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

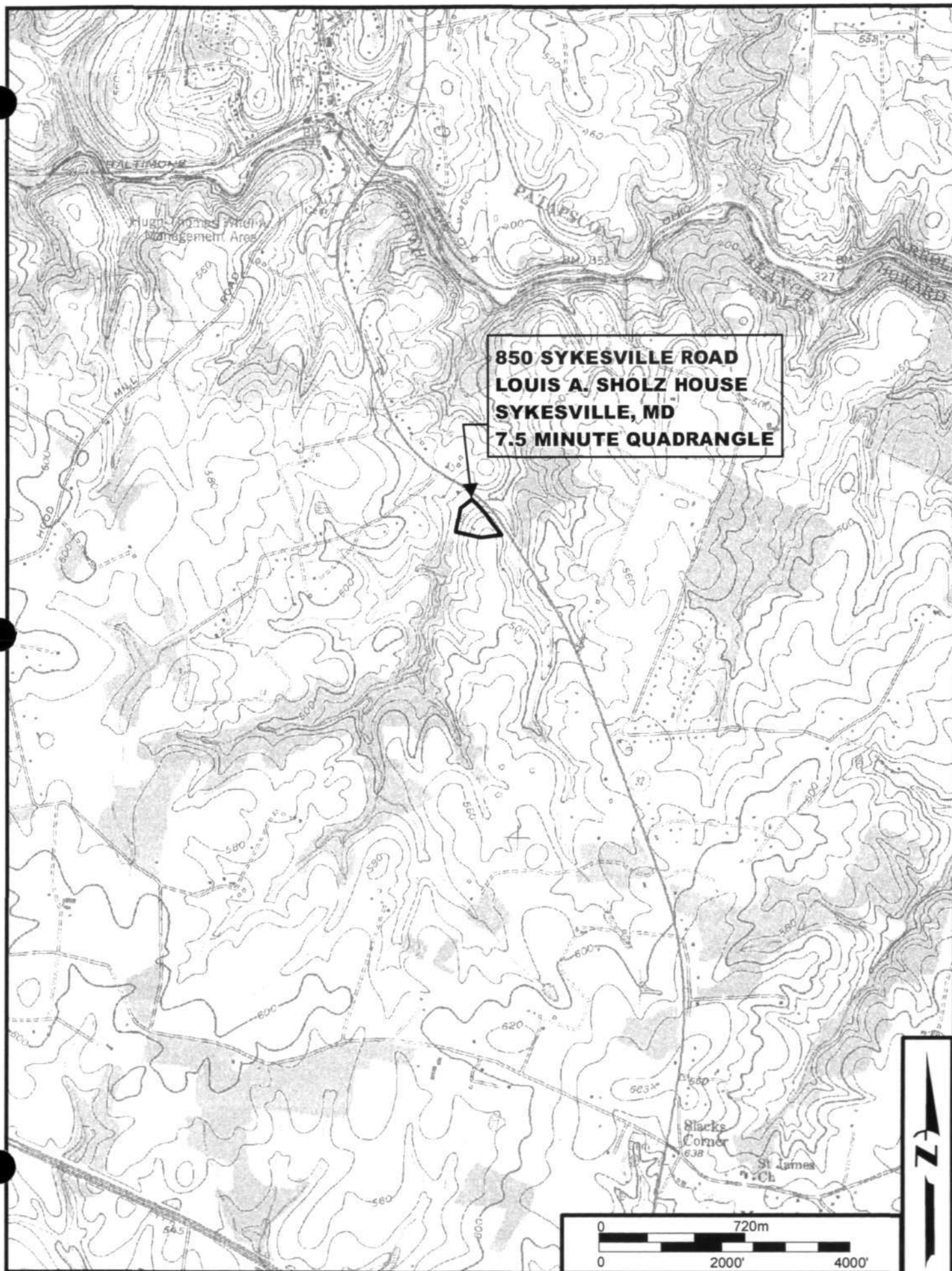
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Date

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Reviewer, National Register Program

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Date









TAX PARCEL MAP  
850 SYKESVILLE RD

**LOUIS A. SCHOLZ HOUSE  
HO-1114  
SYKESVILLE, HOWARD COUNTY  
PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

**Project No. HO472B21**

**MD 32 from S. of Day Road to N. of W. Friendship Road Widening Project**

**Howard County, Maryland**

**Photographer:** Gerald M. Kuncio, Skelly and Loy, Inc.

**Date:** September 26, 2012

**Ink and Paper:** HP 564 80+ Years Permanent Ink and HP Premium Plus Photo Paper

**CD-R Gold:** Verbatim Ultralife Archival Grade CD-R, 24 k arat gold and pat ented  
Phthalocyanine phase-changing dye

HO-1114\_2012-09-26\_01.tif. Front (north) elevation of the house, facing south.

HO-1114\_2012-09-26\_02.tif. East and front (north) elevations of the house, facing southwest.

HO-1114\_2012-09-26\_03.tif. Rear (south) and east elevations of the house, facing northwest.

HO-1114\_2012-09-26\_04.tif. Front (north) elevation of the detached garage, facing southwest.

HO-1114\_2012-09-26\_05.tif. Front (south) elevations of two of the sheds, facing northeast.

HO-1114\_2012-09-26\_06.tif. West and front (south) elevations of one of the sheds, facing northeast.

HO-1114\_2012-09-26\_07.tif. East and front (north) elevations of one of the sheds, facing southwest.

HO-1114\_2012-09-26\_08.tif. View of outdoor hearth, facing southwest.





HO-1114  
LOUIS A. SCHOLZ HOUSE  
HOWARD COUNTY, MD  
PHOTOGRAPHER: GERALD M. KUNCIO  
DATE: 9/26/2012  
DIGITAL FILE: MDSHA

FRONT (N) ELEVATION OF THE HOUSE,  
FACING S.

HO-1114 - 2012-9-26 - 01.TIF

1 OF 8



HO-1114

LOUIS A. SCHOLZ HOUSE

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: GERALD M. KUNCLO

DATE: 9/26/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MDSHA

E AND FRONT (N) ELEVATIONS OF THE  
HOUSE, FACING SW.

HO-1114 - 2012-9-26-02.TIF

2 of 8





HO-1114

LOUIS A SCHOLZ HOUSE

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: GERALD M. KUNCIO

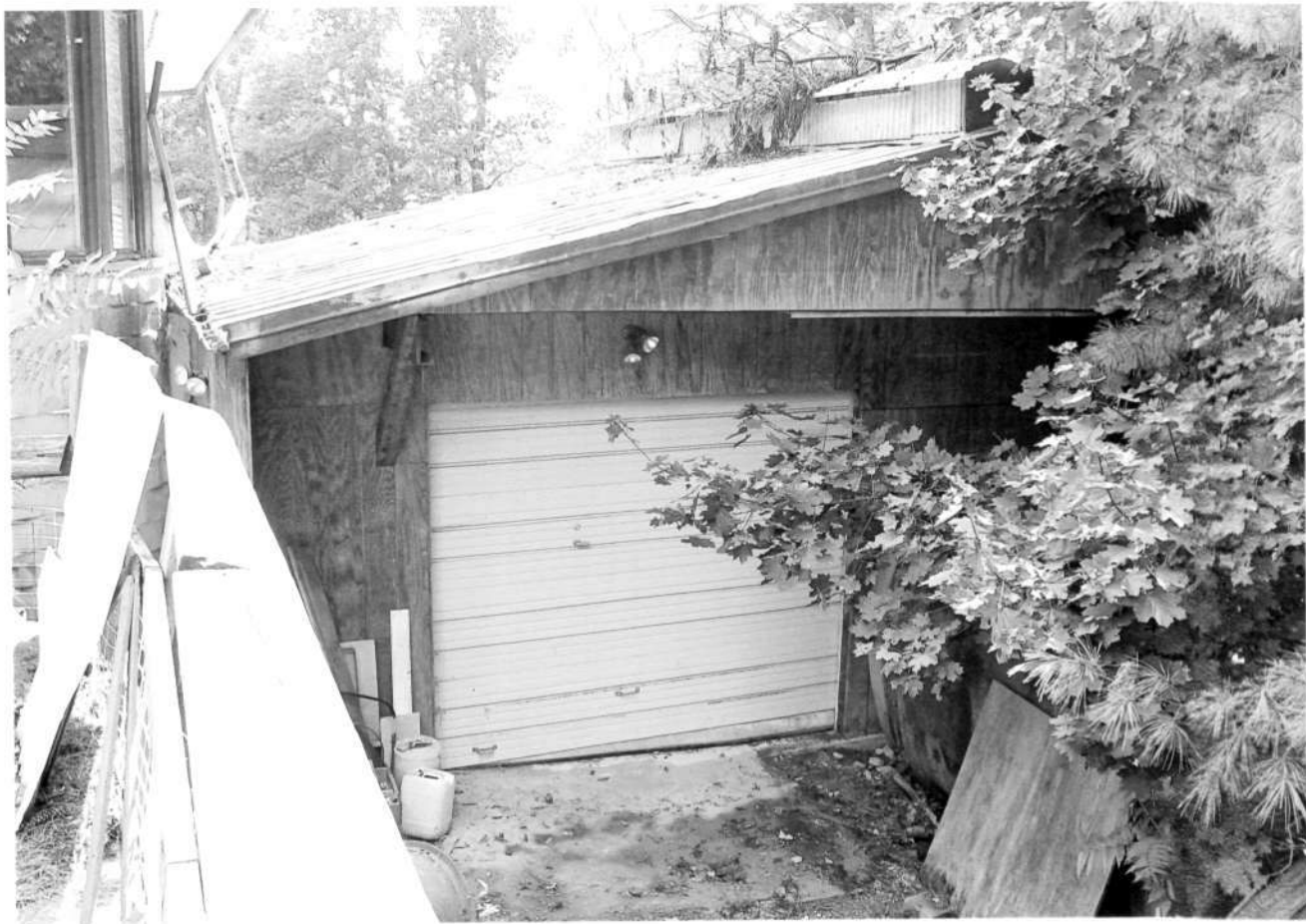
DATE: 9/26/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MDSHA

REAR(S) AND E ELEVATIONS OF THE HOUSE,  
FACING NW.

HO-1114 - 2012-9-26 - 03. TIF

3 OF 8



HO-1114

LOUIS A. SCHOLZ HOUSE  
HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: GERALD M. KUNCIO

DATE: 9/26/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MDSHA

FRONT (ND ELEVATION) OF THE DETACHED  
GARAGE, FACING SW.

HO-1114 - 2012-9-26 - 04.TIF

4 OF 8



HO-1114

LOUIS A. SCHOLZ HOUSE

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: GERALD M. KUNCIO

DATE: 9/26/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MDSHA

FRONT(S) ELEVATIONS OF TWO OF THE  
SHEDS, FACING NE.

HO-1114 - 2012-9-26-05.TIF

5 OF 8





HO-1114

LOUIS A. SCHOLZ HOUSE

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: GERALD M. KUNCIO

DATE: 9/26/2012

DIGITAL FIVE: MDSHA

W AND FRONT(S) ELEVATIONS OF ONE OF  
THE SHEDS, FACING NE

HO-1114 - 2012-9-26 - 06.TIF

6 OF 8



HO-1114

LOUIS A. SCHOLZ

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: GERALD M. KUNCIO

DATE: 9/26/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MDSHA

E AND FRONT (N) ELEVATIONS OF ONE OF THE  
SHEDS, FACING SW.

HO-1114 - 2012-926 - 07.TIF

7 OF 8





HO-1114

LOUIS A. SCHOLZ HOUSE

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: GERALD M. KUNCLO

DATE: 9/26/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MDSHA

VIEW OF OUTDOOR HEARTH, FACING SW.

HO-1114 - 2012-9-26 - 08.TIF

8 OF 8